

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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KINGSTON FOR AMB. YOUNG

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TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT CARTER
AFTER MEETING WITH NYERERE AUGUST 5.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE BY
PRESIDENT CARTER AFTER MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE
AUGUST 5, 1977.

2. (PRESIDENT) PRESIDENT NYERERE IS A MAN WHO HAS THE BEST
INSIGHT INTO AFRICAN PROBLEMS OF ANYONE I'VE EVER MET. I
THINK HE HAS THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OF ALMOST ALL THE
OTHER LEADERS IN AFRICA, AND OBVIOUSLY IS A NATURAL
SCHOLAR, STUDENT, HISTORIAN AND POLITICAL LEADER. HE AND
I HAVE REACHED, I THINK, ALMOST COMPLETE AGREEMENT OVER
THE GOALS AND PURPOSES OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS RELATING TO
RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND WE'LL TRY TO CARRY OUT THOSE
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PURPOSES WORKING AS CLOSELY AS WE CAN TOGETHER RECOGNIZING,
OF COURSE, THAT MANY OTHER NATIONS AND LEADERS WILL BE
INVOLVED. BUT WE HAVE, I THINK, MADE A GREAT DEAL OF
PROGRESS IN OUR MEETINGS THESE LAST TWO DAYS AND I'VE
DEVELOPED AN INCREASING RESPECT FOR HIM.

3-Q. DID HE SAY THAT HE WOULD LET THE AMERICAN-BRITISH

EFFORT RUN TO SEE IF IT WOULD HAVE SUCCESSFUL CONSEQUENCE?

4-A. WELL, WE HOPE AND EXPECT THAT THE BASIC PREMISES OF THE SO-CALLED BRITISH AND AMERICAN PLAN WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT NYERERE. HE CAN SPEAK FOR HIMSELF. SO FAR AS I KNOW, THEY ARE.

5. SECRETARY VANCE WILL BE CONSULTING WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS IN LONDON -- WITH PERHAPS THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA -- AND IF THE SCHEDULE CAN BE ARRANGED, SUBSEQUENT TO THAT MEETING, WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE DIRECTLY. AND FOLLOWING THAT SERIES OF MEETINGS WHICH WOULD BE COMPLETED, I THINK, ON THE 13TH OF THIS MONTH, WE'LL HAVE A MUCH CLEARER PICTURE OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE ON BOTH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

6. I THINK ALL PARTIES HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SWAPO LEADERS WILL DECIDE. SAM NJOMO IS NOW IN NEW YORK TO GIVE THE VIEW-POINT OF THE NAMIBIAN POLITICAL LEADERS IN EXILE KNOWN AS SWAPO AND I THINK THEY'LL BE CONSULTING WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY, WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE DAYS. WE HAVE NOT YET GOTTEN FROM THEM THEIR VIEWS. IF THERE IS A GENERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, OURSELVES AND SWAPO, THEN I THINK THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD BE PREPARED TO MOVE TO IMPLEMENT
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FREE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

7-Q. MR. PRESIDENT, DID NYERERE AGREE TO CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES OR WILL THAT HAVE TO WAIT UPON THESE OTHER MEETINGS?

8-A. I THINK THAT THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER HE MEETS WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON THE 13TH. IF THINGS GO ACCORDING TO OUR HOPES, THEN I THINK THAT HE WOULD NATURALLY BRING TOGETHER THE OTHER FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS TO SEE IF THEIR VIEWS WERE COMPATIBLE WITH HIS OWN. I HOPE THAT WOULD COME ABOUT.

9-Q. PRESIDENT NYERERE ALSO CALLED FOR STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS AGAINST THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN MINORITY AS WELL AS FEWER AMERICAN INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA--ARE YOU PREPARED TO SUPPORT THOSE EFFORTS IN THIS COUNTRY?

10-A. WELL, I THINK THAT THAT DECISION WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON THE DEGREE OF GOOD FAITH WHICH WE DETECT AMONG THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS AND ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT

THE PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE CITIZENS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. WE HAVE LATELY BEEN ENCOURAGED BY CONSTRUCTIVE MOVES IN SOUTH AFRICA CONCERNING NAMIBIA.

IF SO, I THINK THE THREAT OF ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE NOW. IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS BECOME AN OBSTACLE TO FURTHER PROGRESS, THEN SOME SORT OF ADDITIONAL INFLUENCE ON OUR PART AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PROBABLY BE AVISABLE.

11-Q. YOU KNOW, THE REASON WE WERE ASKING ABOUT PRESIDENT ASSAD -- WE WONDERED IF IN TURNING DOWN THE WORKING GROUP CONCEPT HE WASN'T KIND OF LEAVING THE DOOR OPEN TO SOME OTHER WAY OF MAKING A PREPARATION FOR GENEVA.
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12-A. I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ATTACH TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO NEWS REPORTS AND PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETINGS BECAUSE LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF OPTIONS BEING DISCUSSED WITH EACH ONE OF THESE LEADERS -- ALMOST ALL OF THEM ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE A UNILATERAL STATEMENT UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER LEADERS MIGHT BE AND FOLLOWING THE VISIT OF SECRETARY VANCE TO EGYPT, TO LEBANON, TO SYRIA AND NOW TO JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA, HE'LL GO BACK TO ISREAL AND THAT WILL CONCLUDE HIS FIRST INTERVIEWS. IF NECESSARY, HE WILL THEN CONSULT WITH SOME OF THE ARAB LEADERS ABOUT THE REACTION OF ISREAL TO THEIR PROPOSALS.

13-Q. HE MIGHT GO BACK TO MR. ASSAD'S?

14-A. EITHER GO BACK PHYSICALLY OR COMMUNICATE WITH HIM DIRECTLY. BUT I THINK IT'S SUCH A FLUID THING AND THERE ARE SO MANY CONFLICTING OPTIONS THAT WE ARE TRYING TO FIND SOME FORMULA BY WHICH THOSE CONFLICTING OPTIONS MIGHT BE HARMONIZED, AT LEAST FOR A NEXT STEP TOWARD A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION, BUT IT'S AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT QUESTION AND I THINK THAT TO EMPHASIZE THE FEW NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF DISAGREEMENTS AT THIS POINT POSSIBLY DISTORTS THE PROGRESS OR MINIMIZES THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE. I STILL BELIEVE THAT ALL THE LEADERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST GENUINELY WANT TO HAVE PEACE -- OBVIOUSLY ON THEIR OWN TERMS -- BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE AND DEPART FROM THEIR OWN PREVIOUS TERMS IF THEY FEEL THAT THEY CAN HAVE THEIR OWN SECURITY GUARANTEES AND AN END TO THE CONSTANT THREAT OF WAR.

15-Q. DO YOU THINK GENEVA IS STILL A PROBABILITY?
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16-A. I THINK SO, YES.

17-Q. WITH PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION?

18-A. I'LL AVOID THE LAST ANSWER ON THE QUESTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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